

APPROVED

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the January 14, 2013 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bev Korba (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2013)
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Marilyn Gerling (Glen Ridge), Emil Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)
ABSENT: Will Bigl (2012), Laurie McMorrow (2014)
STAFF: Kevin Grunwald (Dir. of Human Services)
GUESTS: Lida Bilokur, Betty Jane Karnes, Steve Kegler, Vera Ward, Jeanne Haas, Jan Scottron, Linda Savage

Minutes: The minutes of the December 2012 meeting were approved as amended.

Correspondence – Kevin said that the letter from this Commission regarding the hiring of a senior service worker will be in the Council packet for their meeting this evening.

Wellness Center – Kevin reported that Beth Hudson Hankins is now working as the senior service worker on a part-time temporary basis. Her hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. In addition, both Kevin and Kathy Ann Easley are available as needed. Kevin is helping to facilitate the caregiver support group as well.

Senior Center – Kevin distributed copies of the Senior Center report in Cindy's absence. There was no report from the Senior Center Association.

Community Information – April contacted the Wrights Way Commissioners to ask if they have a suggestion for a representative to attend our meeting. Bev Korba said she went to visit a resident at Wrights Way but the individual did not feel she could serve as a representative at this time.

Martina said Juniper Hill is having a program from the VNA on de-cluttering our lives. Emile told us that things are going well at Jensen's and reported that the Grand Union grocery store is missed by their residents. Marilyn Gerling reported that Glen Ridge continues to hold a number of community-building events. Betty Jane said that the Storrs Congregational Church has made a donation to the Human Services emergency fund.

New Business – April introduced several persons who are interested in serving on the Commission on Aging: Steve Kegler, Vera Ward and Jeanne Haas. Each of these individuals spoke briefly to tell us why they are interested in joining the Commission. Jeanne refused further consideration because our meeting time is not convenient for her. In addition, Lida Bilokur and Betty Jane Karnes had spoken to the Commission of their interest at our last meeting. April said the Commission would vote during Old Business.

Kevin asked for volunteers to review the fund requests for non-profit agencies. Bev, Joan and Sam each volunteered to do one.

Downtown Update – Joan Terry said an appointment has been set up with Cynthia van Zelm to discuss senior friendly aspects for the new downtown. She read the list of things to be discussed. Kevin suggested that we add transportation to the list of discussion topics. We also discussed briefly the need to make the post offices accessible.

Old Business - April suggested that those candidates present leave the room while the Commission voted on which individuals they would recommend to the Council's Committee on Committees. Two persons were chosen, one from each political party, and April will forward their names.

Transportation Issue – In response to our letter to the Transportation Committee requesting that they consider a bus shelter at the Community Center bus stop, we were told that there are no funds available at this time.

Triad –Emile reported for Will that the senior police academy plans are moving ahead.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission – There were no comments.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, secretary

Next Meeting: February 11

**Goals for the
Commission on Aging
2012-2013**

1. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefit programs.
2. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
3. Advocate for improvements to the local transportation system.
4. Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Storrs downtown senior friendly.
5. Provide information regarding tax relief available to residents.
6. Monitor the development of an independent living/assisted living facility in Mansfield.
7. Support the hiring of a Senior Services Social Worker.
8. Support the implementation of the FoodShare program.